



Boston City Council

Committee on Government Operations

Maureen Feeney, *Chair*

November 30, 2010

Dear Councillors:

The Committee on Government Operations held a hearing to discuss Docket #1539, an Ordinance amending CBC Section 9-11.4 "Security in Elderly/Handicapped Housing Development" and Section 11-1.7 "Crime Prevention Surveys". This matter was sponsored by Mayor Menino, referred to this Committee on Wednesday, November 17th, 2010 and heard at a public hearing on November 30th, 2010 at which public comment was taken.

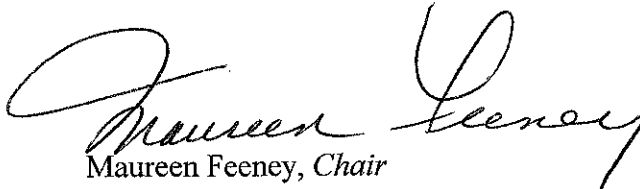
Docket #1539 is an ordinance that makes changes to certain provisions in the CBC pertaining to security inspections of elderly/handicapped housing developments. As currently provided by the municipal code, elderly/handicapped housing developments must be inspected every three years to ensure that facilities are safe and protected from criminal activity. These inspectional surveys must be conducted by "certified crime prevention officers." When the current ordinance was passed in 1989, the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council provided crime prevention training courses to certify officers but they no longer do so. Docket #1539 removes this requirement and allows the Boston Police Commissioner the authority to designate personnel to work with the Inspectional Services Department to conduct triennial inspections.

At the hearing, the Boston Police Department testified that this amendment to the municipal code will allow the Boston Police Commissioner to designate community service officers to work with the Inspectional Services Department in identifying public safety risks within elderly/handicapped housing developments. In 1989, the Criminal Justice Training Council was a much larger agency that provided training for recruits and offered many additional and varied training programs. However, training is no longer provided for the specific certification of crime prevention officers. BPD Community service officers can perform the same role as certified crime prevention officers. They are especially familiar with these residents and facilities and, as well, are equipped with the knowledge and expertise in crime prevention.

The Committee on Government Operations, to which the following was referred:

Docket #1539, Message and ordinance amending CBC Ordinances, Section 9-11.4 "Security in Elderly/Handicapped Housing Development" and Section 11-1.7 "Crime Prevention Surveys";

based on information presented at the hearing and public comment gathered by the Committee and having considered the same, the Chair respectfully recommends that this matter ought to pass.


Maureen Feeney, *Chair*
Committee on Government Operations